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LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Moroccan Government is deeply concerned at the draft resolution distributed to members of the Security Council in document S/1998/1011, particularly paragraph 6 thereof.

According to that paragraph, the Security Council supports "the intention of MINURSO to start publishing the provisional list of voters by 1 December 1998".

I should like to recall that the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, during his visit to the region, submitted to us a number of proposals on outstanding identification issues, including those related to the publication of the list and the launching of the appeals process by 1 December 1998. The Moroccan Government is currently examining his proposals and will be transmitting its reply to the Secretariat very shortly.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations recalled during the Security Council's informal consultations that his proposals might be modified or amended.

Pending finalization of the various protocols submitted to it, the Moroccan Government would like to draw your attention and that of the other members of the Security Council to the grave contradiction between the provisions of paragraph 6 of the draft resolution and those of paragraph 21 of the Settlement Plan (S/22464), which stipulate clearly that the list will be published only when the identification process is complete.

By 1 December 1998, the date proposed for publishing the lists, the identification process will not be complete because the identification of the 65,000 applicants from tribal groupings H41, H61 and J51/52 will only begin on that date.

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco cannot therefore consider this provision of paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, if it were retained in the final text, as modifying the relevant provisions of the Settlement Plan.

I should be grateful if you would inform the members of the Security Council of the content of this letter and arrange for it to be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative